



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Washington, D.C. 20240



FWS/DHRC/BAPHC

OCT 05 2004

Memorandum

To: Regional Directors, Regions 1-7

From: Director *Thomas O. Melius, Acting Deputy Director*

Subject: Solicitation of Nominations for the Bi-Annual Transportation Environmental Stewardship Excellence Award
(Due: January 15, 2005)

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is requesting nominations for the Transportation Environmental Stewardship Excellence Award. This award recognizes Service employees or offices that utilize partnership-based approaches toward streamlining Federal agency efforts while enhancing long-term ecological protections.

The criteria for evaluating the nominations will include consideration of one or more of the three essential elements for environmental streamlining and stewardship associated with the planning and implementation of transportation projects or processes substantially developed or accomplished in Fiscal Year 2003-2004. Refer to the attached description of the evaluation criteria.

This year the Service is showcasing stewardship efforts which enhance local participation in Federal natural resource-decision making in recognition of President Bush's Executive Order: Facilitation of Cooperative Conservation (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/08/20040826-11.html>). Nominations which include examples of close cooperation with local communities will receive extra consideration.

A panel of judges will conduct an independent evaluation of the entries and will make a recommendation to the Service. The judges will represent the Federal Highway Administration, a State or local transportation agency, and a nationally recognized environmental or transportation non-governmental organization. The Assistant Director - Fisheries and Habitat Conservation will make the final decision. The award winner will be notified by the Director and will be invited to and recognized at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. on Earth Day, April 22, 2005. The name of the award winner is also inscribed on a permanent plaque located in the Service's Washington Office.

Additional information and application is attached and available online. An online application or four hard copies of the application and attached summary must be submitted to the Assistant Director- Fisheries and Habitat Conservation (Attention: Chief, Division of Habitat and Resource Conservation) NLT COB, January 15, 2005.

If you have any questions or for more information, contact Dr. Benjamin N. Tuggle, Chief, Division of Habitat and Resource Conservation at 703-358-2161.

Attachments